



Resident Beat Officer

ANTHONY COLEMAN

(708) 606-1938

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Community Oriented Policing

Boundaries: Austin Blvd. to Ridgeland Ave. & Chicago Ave. to North Ave. *Zone meetings held every third Tuesday of the month at Hatch School @7pm.*

Jul- Sept 2009

Burglary Awareness and Prevention

Burglary occurs when an offender enters or remains in a building or vehicle without permission with the intention of committing a felony or a theft. Burglary can occur to your house, apartment, business, garage or car.

In recent months there have been numerous burglaries to residences, garages and vehicles, but lately apartments seem to be the most commonly victimized dwelling. Residential burglaries occur mostly during the day, when people are typically away from their home. The most common method for breaking in to apartments has been through rear windows and doors, sometimes unlocked, but also by means of force. Home electronics such as televisions, DVD players, laptops, and video game systems are among the most commonly targeted items.

The Oak Park Police have made numerous arrests of burglars in connection to these crimes, and continue to assign many resources to combating the ongoing burglary problem.

Regardless of the manpower that the police assign to thwart burglaries and arrest offenders, the value of the public's participation in stopping these crimes cannot be overstated. Many arrests are made because the police are notified by

residents and neighbors who witness a crime or suspicious behavior and immediately call 911.

It is also important to be mindful of your home's security. Keeping doors and windows securely locked will go a long way toward protecting your home. Alarm systems, used properly, can be very effective. Make sure your doors, door jambs, windows and casings, and locks are strong and working properly. Vulnerable windows can be reinforced with plexiglass.

Record the serial numbers from electronics and other valuables. These numbers are useful in recovery and identification of stolen items. Contact your Resident Beat Officer, who will meet with you in your home and provide a security survey.

To protect your possessions inside your garage, remember to always lock the side service door. Not locking this door is a common bad habit. And make sure the overhead door is closed when the garage is unattended. Adequate lighting, and motion activated lights are also a strong deterrent. Finally, keep your car doors locked, and make sure that there are no items visible in your car's interior. A few coins can entice a thief to break a car window.

Again, calls to the police reporting suspicious activity or crimes in progress have been an important element in the arrest of many burglars.

Your neighbors can be one of the most effective deterrents to crime. Get to know your neighbors. Talk with them about crime prevention, about looking out for one another, watching for suspicious activity, and knowing when to call the police. Consider getting your neighbors together for a discussion about safety and security with your Resident Beat Officer.

School's Open!

Let's remember to drive carefully and watch out for students on their way to and from school. Also adhere to the parking restriction signs that are posted around schools because they're there for our *children's protection* and to regulate the flow of traffic. Officers will be giving warnings initially to violators but a ticket will follow for repeat offenders.

BLOCK CAPTAINS NEEDED

The Oak Park Police Department is currently looking for persons interested in being Block Captains. The block Captains might aid the police in the dispersal of important information to their neighbors, perhaps by maintaining an e-mail distribution list or possibly by organizing and hosting a neighborhood watch meeting from time to time. Anyone in Zone 1 who is interested should contact me. Or, if you know someone on your block that you think might be a good choice, speak to them about giving me a call.

MCGRUFF HOMES

McGruff Houses provide safe locations in neighborhoods where children can seek nearby assistance if they feel threatened or scared. Please consider making your home a McGruff House. Contact me for more information

WHEN TO CALL 911



When you need immediate police response or observe something unusual/suspicious, dial 911. Supply the dispatcher with the details that you observe and your perception of what's occurring.

GIVE GOOD DESCRIPTIONS

When describing a person, provide the race, sex, age, height, weight, clothing (top to bottom) and any distinguishing features. When describing a vehicle provide the make, model, color and license plate. A description of body damage and number of occupants can be helpful. Tell the dispatcher if it's in progress or how long ago it happened or their last direction of travel. When giving the location, try to use an address. If you don't know, describe the house or how many houses it is from a corner or what's across the street. ***Please don't get frustrated with the dispatcher for asking so***

many questions. The information you give is being given to responding officers while you're giving it.

NON-EMERGENCY CALLS

Dial 386-2131 for problems that do not need an immediate police response. If you want to talk to the officer that responds or if you are willing to sign a complaint about criminal activity or ongoing problems, please let dispatcher know. If you are not happy with the service you receive, call back and ask for a supervisor. For ongoing problems call me at 606-1938.

NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Parking complaints: 358-5798
- Extended parking passes: 358-5750
- Day Parking Passes: 358-3197
- Night Parking Passes: 358-6483
- Excessive debris/litter in alley & private property: 358-5445 (John Ross)
- Excessive litter on public property: 358-5708 (Vincent Bryant)
- Police non-emergency dispatch: **386-2131**
- Crime Tip Hotline: 434-1636
- Graffiti Hotline: 358-5429
- Animal Control: 358-5680
- Community Relations: 358-5405
- Adjudication: 358-5479
- Property complaints/violations: 358-5443
- Village Manager's Office: 358-5770
- Public Works: 358-5700